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Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box AF, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 25, 2003.

*Judy Bridgewater*  
Judy Bridgewater



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

BIJL and SCHAAP

Serial No.: 08/821,025

Filing Date: March 19, 1997

For: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION  
OF A GRANULAR MICROBIAL  
BIOMASS AND ISOLATION OF A  
COMPOUND THEREFROM

Examiner: I. Marx

Group Art Unit: 1651

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box RCE  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This preliminary amendment is filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and is in response to an Advisory action dated February 25, 2003; an interview summary dated August 15, 2002; a final Office action herein mailed April 29, 2002; and a Notice of Appeal filed August 28, 2002, setting a time for a response to expire on October 28, 2002. A petition for an extension of time for five (5) months until March 28, 2003 in which to respond is attached herewith along with the required fee. Claims 1-29, 31, 33-36, and 41-67 were rejected in the Final Office Action. Careful consideration has been given to the grounds for rejection and the

following amendments and remarks are offered in response. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.